



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Location: Senate Hearing Room, 2nd Floor, Legislative Hall, Dover
Div. of Fish & Wildlife: Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bernie Pankowski, Chairman
David Russell, Vice Chair
Eric Burnley, Sr.
Bill Baker, Sr.
Ronald Horton
Rick Carlisle (*Absent*)
Clark Evans (*Absent*)
Sen. Gerald W. Hocker
Rep. Ronald E. Gray

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Jeremey Ashe
John Clark
Stewart Michels
David Saveikis, Director

PUBLIC

2 Attendees

Agenda Item 1. Opening remarks

Chairman Pankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of minutes from April 27, 2017

A motion to accept the meeting minutes was approved without objection.

Agenda Item 3. Update on current and approved construction projects – Jeremey Ashe, Fisheries Construction Manager, provided an update on the reconstruction and expansion of the Phillips Landing boat ramp, which is now moving ahead with design work at 60% and construction expected to begin in late Fall 2018. Construction bids for the new Little Creek Fishing Access Area that will include a boat ramp and fishing pier will be sought in January 2018 and construction should be completed by Fall 2018. Replacement of the Millsboro Pond boat ramp is expected to begin in 2018. Eleven Fishing Access Area parking lots will be repaired, resealed and restriped in early 2018. New floatation for the unstable dock in Milton has been received and will be installed soon, new docks have been received and will be installed at the Seaford ramp and a gangway and floating dock have been ordered for Hearn's Pond to add to the boat ramp rebuilt as part of the Hearn's Pond dam replacement.

Agenda Item 4. Follow up from previous meeting

- a. **Funding for dredging – David Saveikis, Fish & Wildlife Division Director**, provided and update on the new Waterway Management Fund's accrued cash balance derived from the January 2017 increase in boat registration fees, with the revenues provided to the Division of Watershed Stewardship for waterway management projects. The Council was encouraged that there was a dedicated fund for dredging, but was concerned that this fund was insufficient for the many dredging jobs that need to be done statewide. Senator Hocker discussed his attempts to secure more funds for dredging.

- b. **Recreational Fishing Special License Plate – Chairman Pankowski** updated the Council on his discussions with DelDOT regarding the creation of a vanity fishing license plate, which requires passage of legislation by the General Assembly. Representative Gray and Senator Hocker said they would pre-file bills in their respective chambers, but both stated that there has been resistance to such bills due to the growing number of special plates. The Council also discussed possible uses for the funds from such a vanity license plate, agreeing that the funds should be dedicated to fisheries conservation and fishing access projects.
- c. **Sportfish tagging program** is on hold temporarily due to staff capacity limitations. The goal is to start the sportfish tagging program in spring 2018.
- d. **Dobbinsville Fishing Pier – Chairman Pankowski** spoke with New Castle City Mayor Linda Ratchford and the New Castle City Council is still in full support of this project. Director Saveikis stated that it would be very helpful if the City of New Castle could either allocate or otherwise obtain funds to cover part of the design and construction costs.

Agenda Item 5. Public comments

No public comments.

Agenda Item 6. Ending remarks and adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Clark
Recording Secretary